REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-28. Claim 1 has been amended to better define the invention and claims 2-27 have been amended to improve their form or to remove reference numerals. In addition, the Abstract has been amended, and the specification has been amended for clarification purposes to change the original German word "WIG" for a welding process which is called in English "TIG" to --TIG/WIG-- as it appears in the next to last full paragraph on page 9 of the disclosure. Support may be found, *inter alia*, in the disclosure in the paragraph spanning pages 2-4 and page 9. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to as having more than 150 words. In response, Applicants have amended the Abstract so that it is limited to less than 150 words, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection on this basis.

Claims 1, 4, 7-8, 15-20, 22-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended these claims to improve their

form, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-8 and 16-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *U.S. Patent No. 6,103,994 to DeCoster et al.* The remaining claims 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *DeCoster et al.* Claims 27 and 28 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *DeCoster et al.* in view of *U.S. Patent No. 6,570,132 to Brunner et al.* In this connection, the Examiner has apparently not formally made *Brunner et al.* of record in this application by listing it on a Notice of References cited PTO-892 form attached to the Office Action, and Applicants respectfully request that *Brunner et al.* be so formally made of record by the Examiner by listing on such form PTO-892.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to better define the invention and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

As set forth in claim 1 as amended, Applicants' invention provides a method for controlling a welding apparatus, whereby individual welding parameters are set by the user in the form of

a welding job for a specific welding process by means of a first control unit hard-wired to or integrated in the welding apparatus and several such welding jobs are stored in a memory device and the welding apparatus or components of a welding system are controlled according to the parameters stored in the memory device. By activating a push-button element of a second control unit disposed on the welding torch, a start signal is sent to the control system in order to initiate the welding operation.

As recited in claim 1 as amended, several welding jobs are stored in the memory device in a defined sequence so that the operator chooses his designated welding job by creating a control signal in a standardized control sequence. The control sequence is created by the push-button element of the second control unit. Thereby one of the welding jobs stored in the memory device is chosen by the operator by switching through the welding jobs stored in the memory device, or alternatively the operator uses the previously chosen welding job, and afterwards a start signal is created by the same push-button element of the second control unit which starts the welding operation.

Thus, with Applicants' method as recited in claim 1 as amended, the operator is given the possibility to choose which

<u>welding job</u> shall be used at the next welding operation. Due to this ability, the operator can <u>create a control signal</u> to change the welding job <u>or create a start signal</u> immediately <u>without changing the welding job</u>. In the second case, the next welding operation will run with the same parameters, i.e., the same welding job which has been used in the previous welding operation.

The primary reference to *DeCoster et al.* discloses a method for controlling an operating parameter of a welding device. *DeCoster et al.* describes a welding process selector signal from a welding processor selector, which represents a desired welding process (exemplified by TIG/WIG and STICK welding process), a remote device signal from a remote control device, which represents a first desired value of the operating parameter, and an operating parameter signal from an operating parameter selector represents a second desired value of the operating parameter. The operating parameter is controlled with the remote device signal, when the welding process selector signal indicates a first welding process (TIG/WIG) is desired, and with the operating parameter selector signal, when the welding process selector signal indicates a second process (STICK) is desired. In other words, the *DeCoster et al.* method controls if the

operator wants to weld with a TIG/WIG welding process or a STICK

welding process. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a

method of changing so-called "welding jobs", which includes an

amount of operating parameters for this welding job, by creating

a control signal by means of a push-button element of the welding

torch nor creating the start signal for the welding operating by

the same push-button element of the welding torch.

DeCoster et al. also describes the possibility to save

various configurations of the parameter in a memory but with

DeCoster et al.'s method, the operator can <u>recall</u> the stored

parameters only <u>at the control panel</u>, not at the control device

or the welding torch. With *DeCoster et al.*'s method, operating

parameters can be changed on the control panel or by use of the

memory selectors on the control panel. According to the used

control device an operating parameter can be changed within

limits set at the control panel.

In contrast, Applicants' method as recited in claim 1, as

amended, has the advantage of being able to store welding jobs

with the operating parameters and to <u>switch through these welding</u>

<u>jobs</u> with <u>the one push-button element</u> on the welding torch <u>which</u>

<u>also starts</u> a welding operation. The system discriminates

between the two cases that the operator wants to change welding jobs (e.g. by a short control signal) or that the operator wants to start a welding operation (e.g. by a longer control signal) without changing the recently used welding job. *DeCoster et al.* changes operating parameters with the means of an ordinary remote control device of the state of the art, so if a remote control device needs to change more than one operating parameter, the remote control device needs also more than one input device (e.g. a further push-button element).

The defects and deficiencies of the primary reference to *DeCoster et al.* are nowhere remedied by the secondary reference to *Brunner et al.* Contrary to Applicants' method as set forth in claim 1 as amended, *Brunner et al.* discloses a method of operating a data exchange between a control unit and a welding unit by using a special control unit. In contrast, Applicants' method as recited in claim 1, as amended, uses an ordinary welding torch with one push-button element.

Moreover, none of the cited references whether considered alone or in combination gives a person skilled in the art any suggestion to develop a method having the ability to control welding jobs with one push-button element on the welding torch as recited in Applicants' claim 1 as amended. There is no

disclosure or suggestion in any of the cited references of the possibility of changing the welding job and starting the welding operation by creating the control signal with one push-button element.

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's position, *DeCoster et al.* fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' method as recited in claim 1 as amended. With Applicants' method as set forth in claim 1 as amended, it is possible to change through preset welding jobs by pushing a push-button element in a way to create a control signal to switch through stored welding jobs. The same push-button element can be used in a way to create a start signal to start the welding operation. By creating one or more control signals with the push-button element on the welding torch, Applicants can switch through the different welding jobs stored in the memory device. If the operator wants to weld with the preset welding job, which means with the same operating parameters used in the last welding operation, the operator creates the start signal with the push-button element without creating a control signal beforehand. In contrast, with the method of *DeCoster et al.*, although the remote device can be used to change operating parameters, such change must be according to the different control devices and such change in operating parameters has to be done with the different input devices the
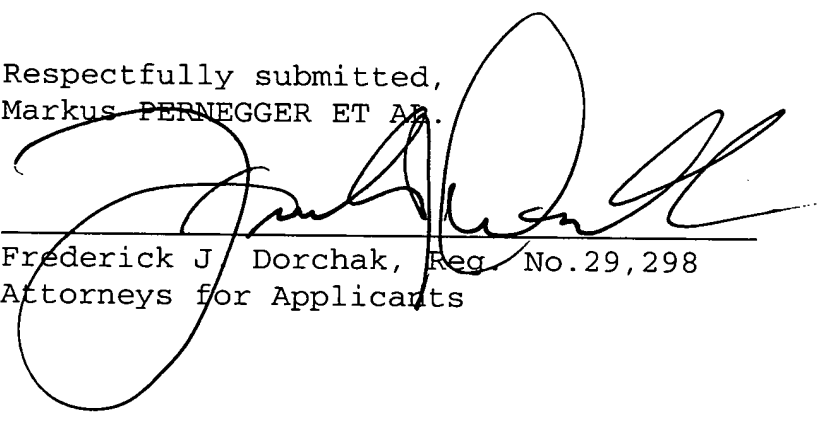
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control device possesses. If the operator wants to use the stored operating parameters in *DeCoster et al.* he or she has to choose one of these stored parameters at the control panel.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as amended, together with claims 2-28, which depend directly or indirectly thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

In summary, claims 1-27 have been amended, along with the specification and the abstract. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Abstract of the Disclosure

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 26, 2009.

Amy Klein